

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 02:39:57 1994
From: JimN0OCT@aol.com
Subject: 2 meter vfo....

>I would also be interested in hearing more details on the
>designs/problems/etc that people encounter for the L0/VF0. I'm >working on
the 2m VF0 myself. (Just got the crystal.) Anyone >else? Comments?

>Doug KA2UPW
>doug@acpy01.utsd.att.com

are you using a 2m crystal, or a lower freq rock and multiplying it?

72.5, jim n0oct

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 01:51:32 1994
From: Lynn Geitgey <GEITGEY%UKANVM.bitnet@vm42.cso.uiuc.edu>
Subject: Comdex

Hi Gang,

Anybody going to the Fall Comdex, in Vegas, this year?

Maybe we can get a party going, while we are there. I will be staying
in Boulder City (away from all the hustle and bustle of Vegas, itself).

Anybody know of any Radio Stores in Vegas?

72 de KB0LRB
Lynn Geitgey
geitgey@ukanvm.cc.ukans.edu
geitgey@ukanvm.bitnet

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 03:56:18 1994
From: tking@oes.ca.gov (Tom King)
Subject: Re: Cures for key fright?

Regarding your "key fright"--you just have to jump right on in and make a fool
out of yourself, just as the rest of the experienced QSOers you hear had to do.
Hams are very supportive of newcomers and will work with you. You may even
make some new lifelong friends. I passed my 13 wpm code test very quickly
not because I listened to code tapes, but because I got involved in QSOs.
You can get some other hams you know on the air and pick a private frequency
to practice sending on the air if you'd feel more comfortable. Don't give up.
Coded novices seem to be a dying breed. I'm an advanced now, but TOO SCARED
TO GO FOR MY 20wpm!! 73, Marina King, KA6JWL

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 03:25:35 1994
From: Joe Gervais <jgervais@weber.ucsd.edu>
Subject: Re: digital invasion

> If you folks can ID any of the encroaching *unattended*
> digital things and then provide the net with callsigns
> maybe we can send a 100 or so QSL cards to the owners
> with a gentle note that interference is occurring.
>
> Jeff NH6IL

Just make sure the offender isn't into collecting
QSL cards first. :)

Good idea though. Seems like a firm but friendly
way to get the point across.

73,

Joe KD6PRD "20 wpm or Bust!"

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 19:01:57 1994
From: "CLAY WYNN" <ID0077@ibbs1.com>
Subject: DIGITAL INVASION

I have lumped the strange stuff on 7.101 and 7.040 in with
over the horizon radar, russian woodpecker, ionosphere sounders,
muf evaluators, etc. that various folks ply the band with. I just
treat them like all other QRN. You'r starting to suggest that
amateurs are doing that - that there is some intended intelligence
behind all that noise? You're kidding, right? ;-)

Anyway, the way my mail reader scrambles the time of filing date
stamps on messages here (almost LIFO) you couldn't start
a flame here even if you wanted to. I love it! Lists forever!

7273,
C.C. (Clay) Wynn, N4AOX
--

+-----+
+ From IBBS#1 Metro Chicago +
+ ADDRESS REPLIES TO ID0077@IBBS1.COM (CLAY WYNN) +
+-----+

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 10:18:03 1994

From: NYOUNG@DESIRE.WRIGHT.EDU
Subject: Digital vs cw

I look at it this way: CW is like printing with hand-set type. It may be slow. It may even be old fashioned and out-of-date. But it still works, and those of us who feel that way have no problem with those who feel otherwise. Continuing the comparison, letterpress printers don't snarl at offset duplicating aficionados, nor do owners of Monotype or Intertype casters go around casting dispersion on those who set type on a MacIntosh or IBM Selectric (which, by the way, is now considered "old tech"). My four tons of cast iron and gawdknowshowmuch type in California job cases in no way implies that I think modern printing and composition technology is a rape of an art. Sure, some computer type is ugly, badly spaced and sometimes unreadable. But I still read the stuff. And I've been known to use it myself.

To carry the analogy to its extended meaning, CW (or hand-set type) is just as viable a communication option as digital cricket noises (or computerized typography). It's user defined and use valuated. Nuff said.

Nils
WB8IJN &c
The Tagalong Press
(Where the floor of the garage will never blow away. Sink into the ground, maybe. But blow away? Never! In fact, I may just put my tower up on it.)

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 23:58:46 1994
From: jeffrey@math.hawaii.edu
Subject: divide by 2

Anyone have any ideas how to divide in half the frequency coverage of a transceiver? I have a 10M only xcvr (5W!) and would dearly love to find/build a transverter to put it on 20M. I've never heard of doing something like this before.
Ideas?

Jeff NH6IL

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 17:04:04 1994
From: penc@psuh02meteo.psu.edu
Subject: Flames

Flamers:

Please direct flaming comments directly to who they are intended. I enjoy belonging to this list but don't need my mailbox cluttered by flames intended at one or two people.

I apologize for the bandwidth, but haven't kept a list of flame originations. Sorry. Let's get back to constructive matters, please.

Thank you
R. Penc WK2A

PS: Some of us pay by the message

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 10:07:05 1994
From: C=BAILEY%IS%211EIS@ANG193FS.af.mil
Subject: Flames off pse

No flames please.

The debate should be QRO vs QRP. Unattended operation should be restricted to a sub band due to the nature of it. (Imagine trying to QSO FM voice on 145.010).

I have always felt left out of the "considerate operators" guides. No one has adopted QRP "low power operation" frequency sub bands, other than QRP clubs!

Sincerely 73, Cam, KT3A

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 02:28:39 1994
Subject: Re:Flaming of K5F0
From: Eric Swartz WA6HHQ <erics@cruzio.com>

To Jim (VE3XJ),

Your comments regarding digital frequency allocations in the international arena vs. QRP operating freq's are well taken. We need to cooperate with those other modes of operation that also have a need to operate in the same area as we QRP'ers.

BUT, your tone and rudeness towards Chuck and towards the QRP group in general is TOTALLY out of place. To jump into what was a simple comment on interference from digital operations and to react to it in the personal and outrageous manner that you did simply shows that you have no concept of what both QRP in general, and this list in particular are all about. Chuck's comments regarding getting the call signs of the digital op's were well intentioned and certainly not out of line, given that he believed that the digital guys were

out of their 'band'.

QRP'ers, and the members of this list, are some of the most considerate and open minded people I have met. While we do operate CW heavily, I have yet to see the kind of 'CW vs Digital' comments in the tone that you refer to. Sure, some of us feel CW is the 'only' way to go, but we generally don't beat others over the head with our opinions, as you have obviously been taught to do!

We do value differing opinions. Again, your actual points were a good starting point for discussion, but please leave your poor attitude and manners at the door when you check into this list.

(Plus, you owe Chuck an apology.)

...-_-...
Eric, WA6HHQ (Who also operates Digital and even QRO SSB from
time to time....)

--

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 11:31:01 1994
From: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org (Mike Czuhajewski)
Subject: Re HW-7 mods

There was also an article in the QRP Quarterly in 1986 or 1987 by John Collins, KN1H, titled Making the HW-7 a Real Radio, or something like that. He rewired the MOSFET mixer into a VFO amp and installed a Mini Circuits SBL-1 or SRA-1 doubly balanced mixer and added a FET preamp. I tried this one myself; although the schematic and instructions were confusing and hard to follow, it did work quite well. It cured many of the problems that the stock receiver has. (And, with all due respect to W1FB, this one did work; a few years ago two different people told me they had tried the W1FB mod and for some reason it didn't work for either of them.) Regardless of whether you try the KN1H mod or one that was in QST, don't give up on the HW-7 receiver--it CAN be improved and made more enjoyable to use. 73 and Queue Our Pea DE WA8MCQ

--

Mike Czuhajewski, user of the UniBoard System @ wb3ffv.ampr.org
E-Mail: Mike.Czuhajewski@hambbs.wb3ffv.ampr.org
The WB3FFV Amateur Radio BBS - Located in Baltimore, Maryland USA
Supporting the Amateur Radio Hobby, and TCP/IP InterNetworking

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 03:08:31 1994
Subject: Info
From: "jim rybak" <jrybak@mesa5.mesa.colorado.edu>

Please send me information on joining the QRP group,
Thanks.

Jim Rybak W0KSD

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 04:26:17 1994
From: dh@deney.csustan.edu (Doug Hendricks)
Subject: Jim Cates "QRP CRAZY LIST"

Several of us on the net have posted lists of our prized QRP gear. This list is from Jim Cates, WA6GER. Jim is the co-founder of NorCal QRP Club, and is quite a collector of QRP gear. When he says mint, it means that it looks like it just came out of the box. I asked him to send me the list on packet so that I could post it to the net, as Jim is not on internet. Many of you know Jim, and I think will be interested in his gear. If you have comments for Jim, send them to me and I will relay them to him. 72, Doug, KI6DS

Well, I haven't checked the attic nor the shop/shack nor the metal shed, but here are the rigs I can recall from my position in the Lazy Boy recliner.

On the operating console: (1.) Three NorCal Forties, one from the kit, two from left over and junk box parts. (2)HW-7, (3) HW-8, (4) A & A Eng. 20 mtr QRP xcvr. (5) Index Labs QRP Plus. (6) MFJ 9040 Integrated Station (rig, tuner,pwr/supply charger. Comes with portable dipole. I added the nicads). (7) Ten Tec PM2A, mint. (8) Argonaut 509, mint with AC5 tuner, 206 xtal cal., 208 CW filter,Argo power supply. all mint, also. (9) Argonaut 515, mint, with Ten Tec mike and 529 tuner, mint. (10) Mizuho 10 mtr SSB/CW HT. (11) Spider SP-1. (12) Digitrex MPX Mini. (13) Mizuho DC7X (40 mtr xcvr, 2 watts). (14) OHR HP QRP 40 mtr xcvr. mint. (15) Ditto the 30 meter version. (16) HW9, mint, with matching tuner and matching wattmeter. Mint. (17) Yaesu FT-301S, QRP version of that series, with companion tuner/wattmeter and monitor scope. (18)Tech. 20 meter QRP xmtr.

Moving right along...I only have two commercial QRP wattmeters, the OHR and a Welz SP 225 (5-15-150 watt scales)...I am hoping someone on Internet will take pity on this and sell me a Welz RP-120. Hey, I R serious, so don't snicker!

In the shop/shack I have...oh, on the console I also have a Knwd 680 which I use when 5w RTTY from the Yaesu won't hack it to Idaho Falls, and a recently acquired 120-S, which is like a new toy. It will go on the block later.

OK, in the shop/shack I have a mint Century-21 which has been calibrated in 1 watt increments, one to five. But I often cheat and run it full bore, about 20 watts. Also have there a pair of homebrew transmitters, one with a 2N3866 final, the other a 250mw TTL rig from a 73 article.

I have four spare HW-8's just in case, hi hi, plus one junker, and a spare HW-7 plus one junker. Incidentally....the HW-7 on the console has all the QST mods.

Have a few unbuilt kits, an HW-8 and an HW-9 in the Heath boxes, and

NN1G xcvr kit, a 40-40 kit, an HW-9 wattmeter, and a NorCal-40 which was a "buy-back" I had forgotten all about. The case has been painted (nice job) and the panels painted and silkscreened. Finally, when all the parts finally come in, I will have an unbuilt Sierra kit. As soon as I've bagged, boxed and shipped, will have a built Sierra. hi

Rounding out the stuff is a Uniden 2600 on the table, unused, of course. Oops! almost forgot, have a Fireball with the 10 and 15 meter modules.

Wonder what else I've forgotten.

Always looking for anything QRP that I don't have, rigs, literature. I do have most of the books, including a mintcopy of "The Joy of QRP." But Geeez! how gross, no RP-120. Poor jim. Alas, alas. How sad.....72/73..jim

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 10:43:15 1994
From: prvalko <prvalko@vela.acs.oakland.edu>
Subject: Re: Jim Cates "QRP CRAZY LIST"

On Wed, 14 Sep 1994, Doug Hendricks wrote:

> Several of us on the net have posted lists of our prized QRP gear. This list
> is from Jim Cates, WA6GER.

[SNIP... SNIP, Snip, snip... HUGE and enormous and envy envoking list]

As the guy who started this QRP CRaZy "thread," I say,

" All bow towards the shack of Jim Cates!"

73 =paul= wb8zjl

p.s. Just picked up a beautiful Century 21 two nights ago! Anyone have any good "tips" available for this rig? I've gotta call T*T and order a manual for it.

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 02:13:09 1994
From: jeffrey@math.hawaii.edu (Jeffrey Herman)
Subject: Jim's comments

>For what reason would Adams wish to broadcast the name or callsign of the
>station? Since he admits that it's legal, what does he hope to
>accomplish? Quite frankly, a couple of good doses of castor oil would go
>a much longer way in relieving his painful gluteus maximus.

>.....

>73 and live better digitally

>Jim Cummings, VE3XJ

Looks like Chuck hit a nerve. Too bad for Jim.

I guess it's time for the every-6-month scolding for the newcomers.
(Listen up, Jim)

A mail list is a *very* private system in which every article goes into our private mailbox accounts; this is very different from a newsgroup! One always has the option of reading or skipping the articles of a newsgroup but we have no such option with our mail, for your article is mixed with our business emails, emails from our students, office memos, et al. When we accepted your subscription request to this list the implication was that you should refrain from straying outside the subject area of the list, and that you should be on your best behavior to remain on the list (you can be dropped at any time). Flames are NOT welcome on the net but should instead be directed via email directly to the person you're upset with.

QRP'ers generally use CW and thus Chuck's comment was very timely, for, all of us should be concerned with the encroachment of the QRO digital machines (which are on auto pilot - ever hear one send 'QRL?' ?) If this kind of discussion bothers you then maybe you should consider unsubscribing.

Now, to abide by the list's policy here's something QRP-related:
If anyone needs a KH6 contact let's set up a 30M sked. I've finally got all the bugs out of my 30M rig. It's xtal'd on a weird frequency: 10.140 Mc (found the xtal in the junk box).

Jeff NH6IL

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 12:49:54 1994
From: jcumming@clark.dgim.doc.ca (Jim Cummings)
Subject: Re: Jim's comments

Jeff NH6IL wrote:

>
>
>
> >For what reason would Adams wish to broadcast the name or callsign of the
> >station? Since he admits that it's legal, what does he hope to
> >accomplish? Quite frankly, a couple of good doses of castor oil would go
> >a much longer way in relieving his painful gluteus maximus.
> >.....
> >73 and live better digitally
> >Jim Cummings, VE3XJ

>
>
> Looks like Chuck hit a nerve. Too bad for Jim.

Looks like Jim hit an even bigger nerve. Too bad for Jeff.

>
> I guess it's time for the every-6-month scolding for the newcomers.
> (Listen up, Jim)
>
> A mail list is a *very* private system in which every article goes
> into our private mailbox accounts; this is very different from
> a newsgroup! One always has the option of reading or skipping
> the articles of a newsgroup but we have no such option with our
> mail, for your article is mixed with our business emails, emails
> from our students, office memos, et al. When we accepted your subscription
> request to this list the implication was that you should refrain from
> straying outside the subject area of the list, and that you should
> be on your best behavior to remain on the list (you can be dropped
> at any time). Flames are NOT welcome on the net but should instead
> be directed via email directly to the person you're upset with.
>
> QRP'ers generally use CW and thus Chuck's comment was very timely,
> for, all of us should be concerned with the encroachment of the
> QRO digital machines (which are on auto pilot - ever hear one
> send 'QRL?' ?) If this kind of discussion bothers you then maybe
> you should consider unsubscribing.

Jeff, I draw your attention to Chuck's original note. His was not a complaint of a digital machine interfering with an existing CW conversation, but a case of the existence of a digital communication that Chuck came across. I too deplore these unattended machines just coming up and destroying a cw or phone conversations in progress, but I have not had any success in convincing others of severity of the problem. But that is not your fight, it is mine, and I must admit that I have not been too successful (or anyone else for that matter!). I also deplore CW stations deliberately interfering with my communications when I am operating digitally. However, Chuck's complaint dealt with the use of a certain frequency for digital communications. He felt that it should not be there, I disagreed and indicated proof of my assertion. If my last comments judged to be rude rather than ironic, the original intention, so be it. I shall take that criticism under advisement.

Further to this, it is evident that there are double standards within this list. The first, in my opinion, is that it seems that pro-CW comments are acceptable, but anti-CW are akin to shouting "FIRE!" in a crowded theatre. Needless to say, this double standard is amusing in that it points out the foibles of human existence. The second double standard relates to the

rule of relevancy: all postings must relate to the topic of QRP. Fair enough. But why was I only centred out for admonition? Please be kind enough to re-read Chuck's original message and let me know where in the body of that message it relates to QRP. This double standard, as well as some other messages on this topic makes me believe that CW QRP is the REAL topic of this list. Perhaps the list name should be modified to reflect this apparent subject matter. The final double standard is that adverse comments should be directed only to the person with which you disagree. (Does this mean that only adverse comments are subject to private communication whereas agreeable comments are ok? What is the policy on neutral comments?) However, NH6IL and others have taken me to task on my comments. Again fair enough - Since I have expressed my opinions, I am more than prepared to consider other opinions, including "flames". However, if the list policy is that "flames" are expressed between individuals, and not on the list, so be it. HOWEVER. OTHERS SHOULD PRACTISE WHAT THEY PREACH! Jeff, if I have violated list policy with respect to flames, by all means, let me know. However, in accordance with your own instructions, let me know by private mail of my transgression. These double standards don't annoy me, I just point them out and keep them in mind.

Finally, these discussions do not bother me in the least. In fact, I find them invigorating. However, you can tell with my reply to Chuck, I do not respect Sacred Cows. Therefore, if my views are not acceptable to the net (take a poll!), by all means take the steps to unsubscribe me!

73 and live better digitally!

James of Rockland
VE3XJ

** Don't get too excited, because remember, today **
** is the first day of the rest of your life! **

P.S. Yes, I have sent a subsequent missive to Chuck. It seems to me that he was the only one to have acted civilized in this whole affair! Yet it was others who have taken offence! Interesting.....

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 03:31:25 1994
From: sehneg@austin.ibm.com (Sehne)
Subject: Re: K5FO Inventory

Your message dated: Tue, 13 Sep 94 19:03:27 K

>:< Yes yes yes! Thank you Chuck! If we don't do something our
< sacred cw subbands will be eaten up as these *unattended*

< digital things start moving lower and lower.

< Our one major advantage is that CW is allowed anywhere
< on any band; we might have to start exercising this
< privilege.

I'd like to hear more QRP CW on 14.318, seems that's a rock
that's commonly available and cheap, and avail as a 4 pin oscillator as
a result of computer surplus. Does anyone work 14.318 CW (or try?)
My homebrew rigs are mostly rockbound plus whatever I can pull the XTAL to.

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 03:08:59 1994
From: adams@chuck.dallas.sgi.com (chuck adams)
Subject: Re: K5FO Inventory (fwd)

Gang,

I stand corrected by the posting of Jim, VE3XJ.

I probably sounded pretty harse and I stand publicly
corrected. I know that we have a gentleman's agreement
in the states (I seem to recall) that digital operations
would stay above the +60KHz bandedge. I don't see the
digital types pushing the UPPER edges.

Riding a bicycle is archaic and even walking (which I
do 30+ miles per week) is archaic also. You have to
be careful where you do both or you get run over by
a larger vehicle.

Somehow I feel the same way as a CW operator, and even
worse as a QRP nut.

I would think that peer pressure would help, but I hereby
remove the suggestion and crawl back into my hole.

dit dit

Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
adams@sgi.com

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 03:55:54 1994
Subject: Re: K5FO Inventory (fwd)
From: "Stan Goldstein, N6ULU" <stan@cruzio.com>

Jim Cummings writes:

>
> In a previous mailing, C. Adams wrote:
> >
> > I wanna add one more thing to my inventory. Oh please
> > forgive me, one and all. I want to obtain a TNC or
> > whatever to listen to packet/amtorg/crickets or whatever.
> >
> > I turned on the Argosy I last night and the night before
> > and there is some strong critter sitting at 7.035MHz and
> > I want to identify this sucker (or someone else can do
> > it on the net). I think we oughta publicly announce the
> > call signs and duration of such transmissions, even if
> > it is legal, it is a pain in the rear. Give an inch
> > and they'll take a mile or KHz.
> >
> > Soap box off.
> >
> > dit dit
> > Chuck Adams K5FO CP-60
> > adams@sgi.com
> >
> >
> >
>
> For what reason would Adams wish to broadcast the name or call sign of the
> station? Since he admits that it's legal, what does he hope to
> accomplish? Quite frankly, a couple of good doses of castor oil would go
> a much longer way in relieving his painful gluteus maximus.
>
> I also wish to draw to Adams attention to page 37-3, 1991 edition of the
> ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs. On this page is Table 2 entitled
> "Voluntary HF band Plans for Considerate US Operators" (please note the
> adjective "considerate"). In that table, one will notice that 7040 kHz is
> designated as the DX frequency for RTTY communications, in accordance with
> mutual agreements among amateurs. Therefore, digital operation on this
> frequency is not out of line of recognized practice. As a result, digital
> operation on 7035 is at most, a minor transgression.
>
> I must caution all those who may not be aware, but the 40 metre allocation
> outside of ITU Region 2 is from 7000 kHz to 7100kHz. Under those
> circumstances, most digital operation is below 7050 kHz. Therefore, any
> attempts to move digital operations off those frequencies is likely to be
> held with contempt and will be politely, but disdainfully, ignored. If I
> may add a personal note, I have had a number of nice digital chats in that
> range of frequency and I have taken great delight when the CW operators
> try to kick us off... We just "cricket" away to our hearts content.
>
> Finally, I would highly recommend that dyed-in-the-wool CW operators should

> not obtain the means to listen in or operate digital modes. I have come to
> this conclusion because after reading many of the messages in the
> newsgroups, most of the CW operators that campaign for the retention of CW
> testing, et al., could not physically or intellectually cope with inescapable
> conclusion that CW communications in amateur radio is becoming a quaint
> anachronism. Such losses, either through early death or many years in
> therapy while isolated in a rubber room, would clearly be a loss to
> society because I am sure that they would have other talents to bring to
> the betterment of society and their fellow man.

>
> 73 and live better digitally

> Jim Cummings, VE3XJ

> ** Don't get too excited, because remember, today **
> ** is the first day of the rest of your life! **

Perhaps you could just pick up the telephone and use the newest,
latest and most efficient methods available.

You don't seem to understand the spirit of cw qrp and probably
ham radio in general.

--

Stan Goldstein , N6ULU

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 02:44:27 1994
From: C=BAILEY%IS%211EIS@ANG193FS.ang.af.mil
Subject: Kit Listing

Special thanks to James, W4Q0 for forwarding a copy of the kit listings, etc.
Thanks to the author, John Woods, WB7EEL for taking the time to compile them.
All the kits on my list appear on this list also. (Even yours Bill, N8ET).
Thanks to Tom, N9DD for info on HamkKits.

72 to all, Cameron, KT3A (See you on 40m during QRP Afield 94).

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 10:45:20 1994
From: C=BAILEY%IS%211EIS@ANG193FS.ang.af.mil
Subject: Kit Listing available

A kit listing is available from the ARRL. (Thanks Jeff, NH6IL for reminding
me.)

File: KITS (\public\info\tis\kits.txt) from the files of the ARRL Automated
Electronic Mail Server (info@arrl.org).

I have a copy of one dated July 16, 1993. They can be requested by SASE.
Contact Michael Tracey at ARRL.

Those not on my listing from ARRL that are on my list of Manufacturers are:

S&S Engineering
14102 Brown Ave.
Smithburg, MD 21783 (301)416-0661

RadioKit
Box 973
Pelham, NH 03076 (603)635-2235

HamKits
5035 West 90th Lane
Crown Point, IN 46307

Circuit Boards for rigs in ham pubs can be bought from:
FAR CIRCUITS
18N640 Field Court
Dundee, IL 60018

This list is meant for information only, not advertisement.
73 de Cam, KT3A

From ab4el.com Fri Sep 16 00:06:56 1994
From: CQC@aol.com
Subject: MFJ Response to Low Down Review - Pg.1

The following is a reply from Rick Littlefield of MFJ Engineering in response to the MFJ-9040 Product Review by Larry Feick, NFOZ, in Low Down #4, the newsletter of the Colorado QRP Club. Larry's 9040 was factory-wired.

September 15, 1994
To: Rich High, Editor - Low Down, Aurora, CO 80011
>From: Rick Littlefield, MFJ Engineering, Barrington, NH

Re: Larry Feick's MFJ-9040

I've just finished evaluating Larry's MFJ-9040 and found that locking down the key from a cold start produced a 1.8 kHz frequency shift over ten minutes. This means Larry's observation about excessive drift was essentially correct.

The problem was traced to two 330pf monolithic capacitors (C32, C33) in the VFO tank circuit which displayed inferior temperature stability. Replacing these with NPO polystyrene devices reduced drift from 1.8 kHz to just under

200 Hz; a ten-fold improvement. Larry's unit has been corrected and will be returned to him today via UPS.

Although I personally regret communication wasn't handled a bit more gracefully between Larry and MFJ, I do thank Larry for his positive comments about the radio -- and for bringing the VFO problem to light. It was an honest criticism, and if we don't know about these things, we can't fix 'em.

(Continued on page 2)

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 19:47:59 1994
From: CQC@aol.com
Subject: MFJ Response to Low Down Review - Pg.2

Continued....

The MFJ-9040 is one of my favorite radios, and I certainly want everybody who owns one to enjoy it fully. If any of your readers are experiencing a drift problem, they should contact MFJ right away and get it fixed. The service technicians now know the exact cause, and know what to do to make it right!

Thanks for working with us, and congratulations on a great club!

72,

Rick

Rick also gave his address for any technical questions he might answer with respect to the 9040. Do not send any rigs to Rick. His address is 109A McDaniel Shore Dr., Barrington, NH 03825.

Our intent, when publishing the product review, was not to cause any hardship to MFJ, but to strengthen not only MFJ, but all other U.S. manufacturers and suppliers by improving their quality control. So far Japan has not entered the QRP kit field. Let's keep it that way with strong, quality American suppliers

72, Rich W0HEP
Colorado QRP Club

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 11:00:31 1994
From: mvjf@mvubr.att.com (James M Fitton +1 508 960 2577)
Subject: QRP AFIELD

Gang,
Due to work pressures and austerity measures here,
I unsubscribed a few weeks ago. Please let me know
if the digest returns.

FYI, here again are the rules for QRP AFIELD.
Hope to contact most of you this Saturday.....

72, Jim W1FMR

QRP AFIELD-1994

ARP AFIELD-1994 is sponsored by the QRP Club of New England and is designed to encourage QRP enthusiasts to field-test their radio equipment using temporary antennas and non-commercial power sources.

Date/Time

Saturday, September 17, 1994 from 1600Z to 2200Z.

Exchange

QRP-NE Members: RST, State/Prov/Country, QRP-NE #

Non-Members: RST, State/Prov/Country, Power Output

Definitions

Permanent Location - Any location using commercial power
AND/OR permanently installed antennas.

Field (Temp.) Location - Any location using batt/solar/natural
power AND temporary antennas.

Low Power QRP - Less than one watt output.

High Power QRP - 1 to 5 watts output.

Scoring - (CW Only)

1 point for each contact from a permanent location using high
power QRP.

2 points for each contact from a permanent location using low
power QRP.

4 points for each contact from a temporary location using high
power QRP.

8 points for each contact from a temporary location using low
power QRP.

Note: All contest contacts MUST be made using the same location
and power output.

Multipliers:

One point for each state, province or country worked.

Multipliers may be counted only once regardless of band worked.

Awards and Results:

Certificates will be given to the ten stations with the highest point totals. Complete results will be printed in 72 Newsletter. Results will also be available by enclosing a #10 SASE with the contest submission.

Mail contest logs and entry forms to:

Chester (Chet) Bowles, AA1EX

RFD 2, Box 335L

Sharon, NH 03458

QRP AFIELD-1994

Entry Form

Name_____ Call_____

Address_____ QRP-NE # _____

_____ zip

Total number of contacts _____

Points per contact (1) X _____

Total = _____

Number multipliers worked (2) X _____

FINAL SCORE = _____

(1) Points per contact:

1 point for each contact from a permanent location using high power QRP.

2 points for each contact from a permanent location using low

4 points for each contact from a temporary location using high power QRP.

8 points for each contact from a temporary location using low power QRP.

(2) Multipliers: One point for each state, province or country worked. Multipliers may be counted only once regardless of band worked.

Transmitter/Xceiver _____

Receiver _____ Power Output _____

Antenna _____ Power Source _____

Location _____

Comments _____

Submit logs and dupe sheets to: Chester (Chet) Bowles, AA1EX
RFD 2, Box 335L
Sharon, NH 03458

P.S. Please include photographs and pictures with logs if you wish. We will put together a collage for display at flea markets and club presentations. Pictures may also be used in publications, so please make sure your name and call are written on the back of the picture.

----- End of Forwarded message

QRP-AFIELD Rule Interpretation :

Submit 1 log entry for each station.

A station is defined as 1 transmitter on the air at one time.

You can have 5 stations with different callsigns running at one time. Submit one entry per station.

A station can operate on many bands, and even have many operators,
- but not at the same time.

The rules were set up to KIS, while maximizing the quantity of stations on the air.

72 W1FMR

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 14:51:57 1994
Subject: Re: QRP AFIELD
From: Eric Swartz WA6HHQ <erics@cruzio.com>

Jim,

Just one more question regarding the QRP-AFIELD rules.

Does a temporary antenna include one temporarily supported by an existing object?

Wyane, N6KR, Stan-N6ULU, Jeff-WA6AHL and myself will be operating from the Eagle Rock fire lookout at 3000' in the Santa Cruz coastal mountains in CA. In this case we were wondering if a dipole hung off of the existing lookout tower would qualify as 'temporary'.

Thanks! Eric-WA6HHQ

--

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 21:18:57 1994
From: Stephen Trier <sct@po.cwru.edu>
Subject: QRP Digital (was Re:Flaming of K5F0)

> QRP'ers, and the members of this list, are some of the most considerate
> and open minded people I have met. While we do operate CW heavily,
> I have yet to see the kind of 'CW vs Digital' comments in the tone that
> you refer to.

Actually, QRP digital sounds kind of interesting! It seems to me that there is lots of room for QRP-style digital rigs, assuming the power

limit isn't a major problem for digital comms. How about a monoband QRP rig with an integrated RTTY modem? A laptop or one of those "handy terminals" that show up in surplus could be the terminal.

Has anyone tried something like this? Eric, is your digital operation QRO or QRP?

Stephen

--

Stephen Trier "Here, but for an extraordinary physics teacher,
sct@po.cwru.edu goes a saxophone player."
KG8IH - Albert Overhauser, National Science Medal winner

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 05:28:07 1994
From: Alan Kaul <kaul@netcom.com>
Subject: QRP rigs

Hiya ...

Got the Norcal 40 finished today--and love it!
Slight problem -- I used a MPF102 I had on hand for the VF0 -- turned out to be extremely dead. Replaced that, and the rig worked right off! I did improvise the VF0 coil, however. Parts supplier said on the phone he had the T-68-7 form. I confirmed order by mail and sent a check -- spelling out the T-68. He shipped me a T-50. So rather than hassle it (I suspected he didn't have any T-68's on hand) I used the handbook formula and discovered about 70-turns on the T-50 should do the trick. I wound one and using #28 wire, filled the form at about 55-turns. So dropped down to #30 turns, put 70 turns on the form and it fired right up. I should have used 71, because I can only get down to about 7.005 mHz! Anyway, I trimmed it to operate 7.009-7.043 and am using the 7.023 spur to remind me I'm in the band. I may add the trap mod suggested by Wayne.

Xmtr loads to 1.5-2.0 W using nominal Nicad pack putting about 13.8 V. Listened late tonight, hear some East Coasters and Central States and Canada folks, and a couple of JA's. Plus XE1. Couldn't work anyone tonight though -- will try again tomorrow and/or in Saturday's contest.

Terrific design WAYNE. Rcvr sounds great. I like the smoooooth tuning dial -- almost like a big flywheel. Mods probably to follow (LED battery on, maybe a keyer, maybe frequency switch).

My QRP inventory then:

Norcal 40

Icom 725 and Kenwood TS-430 with the homebrew blackbox
that'll use negative voltage to ALC input to drop power
output to milliwatts

Several Two-fers (trying to modify one for 3-band operation--
anyone do that yet? Or won't it broadband well??)

Herring Aid 5 rcvr (circa 1976) [QST]

Universal DC Rcvr (circa 1979) [QST]

Universal Xmtr (circa 1980) + 'Barbados' Superhet [QST] in a
single box which has seen action in KL7, KH6, 6Y5, JY9
(worked about 85 countries w/ 5 Watts from JY -- where the
callsign was worth about 10 dB!!!!)

And uncompleted versions of Neophyte Rcvr, Kanga LCK Rcvr (which I'm
trying to tri-band in combination with one of above mentioned
Two-fers)!

Radio Shack's 10m xcvr (forget the designator)

Converted Lafayette SSB-75 (ex-11m rig now on 10m!)

Plus a shack full of dreams!

Hope to see you Saturday! 72 de alan

[<Alan Kaul, W6RCL>] kaul@netcom.com

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 19:04:42 1994

From: burdick@interval.com (Wayne Burdick)

Subject: Re: Sierra

Bob,

Thanks for the note. Well, the road is always rockier than you think it
will be. We've had to change tires and shocks a couple of times, and
there's an inch of dust on the hood, but the road looks clear ahead
(jeez, end of metaphor...)

Here's the actual scoop. A handful of parts that we thought were
off-the-shelf from Mouser and Digikey turned out to be long lead-time. So
we cancelled those and re-ordered things that are in stock and functionally
identical. Also, in one case we had to go to a local surplus house (no one
else has 2 pF disc caps available until December!).

Jim Cates expects these last few parts in by next week. Mean time, he has
put all of the other parts into the kits, so once he gets that last batch,
he'll be shipping. He has a NorCal-40-proven technique: set up one paper

cup for each kit, and go down the line plopping parts into each kit. This is easier than putting the parts right into a ziplock bag.

The shipping order is the same as the order of checks received, with a couple moved up because they're "early evaluators," including QRPP's technical editor, Eric Schwartz, and myself. This will help get the bugs out before everyone gets theirs. Jim thinks he'll ship them all by the end of the month, but he's a known, unabashed optimist. Wish you guys could all meet him. He's the world's only 70-plus-year-old purchasing agent and kit manufacturer!

Our other kitter is Bob Dyer. He's well into kitting the band modules, now, lacking only a couple of the aforementioned parts. He's putting in four or five hours a day--after all, there are 500+ band module kits to assemble!

The manual is 47 pages. I added a lot of philosophy and design detail that will help people if they want to do their own rigs from scratch. A chunk of the manual will be rehashed as a QRPP article, for those who didn't order the rig.

I'm also finishing up an addendum with a couple of tweaks that didn't make it into the manual, along with some corrections for things that did (and shouldn't have).

I think you're right: we're breaking new ground here. This is one colossal project, but rewarding. Hang in there.

72,
Wayne

>I, and I think others would enjoy an update on the Sierra Project. I
>assume the first group have been shipped but how many on your second
>level list and what are the plans for second level distribution, etc.
>
>You guys are making new trail here and I feel it is very interesting.
>Your "time to Market" is much less than similar groups and I hope will be
>the way to the future for ham radio project kits.
>
>As always, a great job and please keep it up and ignore the whiners.
>
>72, Bob KI0G

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 02:40:21 1994
From: Bob Howle <bhowle@freud.intersys.jackson.ms.us>

Subject: SUBSCRIBE

I'm dropping my Delphi service - found a better I'net provider - Please
change my address for the QRP list to:

bhowle@freud.intersys.jackson.ms.us

TNX es BCUN / Bob / WA4ZID

From ab4el.com Thu Sep 15 15:39:36 1994

From: "SLRC1::M405142" <M405142%SLRC1.decnet@mdcgwy.mdc.com>

Subject: Wanted: Dead or Alive: HW-99

Wanted: Dead or Alive (there's a difference?) : HW-99 'Novice'
transceiver. State condition and price. THX. (yep ,I like HW-7's too!)
Matt Kastigar NOXEU